



Delaware Audubon Society Wind Power Policy

The Delaware Audubon Society (DAS) is a Chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) encompassing the entire state of Delaware in its membership. Both DAS and NAS have a keen interest in matters affecting national, regional, and local environmental issues. Each chapter of NAS is enabled to create and manage policies based on local environmental attributes. Wind Power is just such an issue.

NAS, at a Board Meeting in Tucson, AZ, on September 11, 1997, passed the following board resolution on Wind Power Siting Criteria:

“WHEREAS the mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth’s biological diversity;

WHEREAS renewable energy sources have fewer adverse environmental effects than non-renewable energy sources;

WHEREAS the National Audubon Society supports renewable energy development;

WHEREAS scientific research demonstrates that wind energy production can cause harm to birds, other wildlife, and their habits from construction and ongoing operations, and can cause avian mortality from collisions with turbines and power lines;

WHEREAS wind power should be developed on sites that present the least risk to birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, and should be consistent with the protection of birds, wildlife, and their habitat; and

WHEREAS wind power energy needs planning, the development of data standards and siting criteria, and employment of improved technology as it is developed will reduce the risk posed by wind power to birds, other wildlife and habitat;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Audubon Society strongly recommends that construction of wind energy projects be preceded by the development of national and regional energy needs planning, national and regional siting criteria, the development of data standards, continual monitoring, and employment of improved wildlife avoidance technology as it is developed.”

The goals of NAS as it pertains to renewable energy sources such as wind power are specific in guidance about how DAS proceeds in implementing the NAS policy locally.

In formulating our policy, we relied on the above resolution to frame a distinct set of criteria that we consider to be paramount in addressing site-specific wind power project the State of Delaware may look to approve or implement with interested developers applying for permits. These criteria are enumerated below:

- 1) Renewable energy is important, but damage to animals resulting thereby needs to be viewed on a site-specific basis.
- 2) Fully developed, scientifically-based data standards and siting criteria are fundamental for any wind power projects.
- 3) Existing and improving technologies must be considered on a site-specific approach.
- 4) Formal monitoring techniques must be deployed on a site-specific basis.